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which treat of motive, will, and conduct as subjects of moral approbation and resentment, are among the finest in the book. The last half of this volume is devoted to the first of six different modes of conduct regarded in the concrete, *i. e.*, that mode of behavior which affects the welfare of other men. It is here particularly that Westermarck's acquaintance with classical and ethnological sources is most skillfully and effectively used. Here is portrayed the actual moral and immoral life of mankind set in its natural environment of social conduct. Westermarck's method and material are alike destined to exert a profound influence upon the science of ethics. The reproach of 'objectivity' is certain to be brought; the criticism that the moral consciousness is made to dwell too exclusively upon the ethical value of the acts of others, to the disregard of the subject's own good or bad will. But this reproach is to be met, in the reviewer's opinion, rather by an effective system of moral prophylaxy and moral hygiene than by the introduction of a subjective attitude into the scientific study of the moral life.

MADISON BENTLEY.

Cornell University.

Charles Darwin and the Origin of Species: Addresses, etc., in America and England in the Year of the Two Anniversaries. By E. B. POULTON. Longmans, Green & Co., London, 1909. pp. xvi, 302.

In this volume, published Nov. 24, 1909, on the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the *Origin of Species*, Professor Poulton has brought together the various essays and addresses which he prepared for the Darwin celebrations in England and the United States. His general standpoint is defined in the Preface as follows: "The Darwinian of the present day holds an intermediate position between the followers of Buffon and Lamarck and the Mutationists . . . The disciple of the two first-named naturalists, in these days calling himself an œcologist, maintains that organisms are the product of their environment; the Mutationist holds that organisms are subject to inborn transformation, and that environment selects the fittest from among a crowd of finished products. The Darwinian believes that the finished product or species is gradually built up by the environmental selection of minute increments, holding that, among inborn variations of all degrees of magnitude, the small and not the large become the steps by which evolution proceeds." This, then, is the point of view of the book. Ch. i, Fifty Years of Darwinism, reprints, with some important changes, the essay which gave its title to the volume of Centennial Addresses reviewed in the *Journal*, xx, 1909, 578 ff. Ch. ii touches lightly but appreciatively on the Personality of Charles Darwin. Ch. iii, on the Darwin Centenary at Oxford, discusses the reasons for Darwin's self-confessed loss of the faculty of æsthetic enjoyment; the writer seems to have missed Titchener's paper on the same subject in the *Pop. Sci. Mo.* Ch. iv rehearses Darwin's relation and debt to the University of Cambridge. Ch. v, The Value of Color in the Struggle for Life, is a somewhat extended reprint of the author's contribution to the English memorial volume, *Darwin and Modern Science*. Ch. vi, Mimicry in the Butterflies of North America, shows by reference to special cases that the study of mimicry possesses great advantages for an understanding of the history and causes of evolution, and incidentally outlines a number of problems for American investigators.

Ch. vii breaks new ground; it contains a series of letters written by Darwin to Mr. Roland Trimen between the years 1863 and 1871. The letters belong to an interesting period and, as the editor remarks, "show all the characteristics of Darwin, in his relations with younger men who helped him in his work."

The volume ends with four Appendices. In the first of these, Professor Poulton collects Darwin's arguments against the hypothesis of multiple origins of species. In the second, he brings together, in like manner, Darwin's utterances on evolution by mutation. In the third he returns to the æsthetic question, and proves that scientific work was necessary to Darwin's physical well-being. In the fourth he unearths a divergence of opinion, as between de Vries and certain of his followers, on the subject of the hereditary transmission of fluctuating variations. But surely the divergence is apparent only; the author has failed to distinguish between minute variation that is ancestrally determined and the fluctuation exhibited by pure lines.

TH. WALTERS.

The Family and the Nation, a Study in Natural Inheritance and Social Responsibility. By W. C. D. and C. D. WERTHAM. Longmans, Green & Co., London, 1909. pp. viii, 233.

This interesting and well-written essay is a reasoned plea for a practical eugenics. Civilization is in danger from the lessening of the action of natural selection; of late years, the means of keeping alive the falling and the fallen have grown with ever-increasing speed; and humanitarianism has tended towards sentimentality. At the same time, the social organism has grown self-conscious; there is a new-won appreciation of the issues at stake. Hence it is in order to inquire how far selection, natural and artificial, has been the means of developing the race, how far it is still acting and in what directions, what will be the effect of that action, and whether it can be controlled in any way to favor the preponderance of the best physical, mental and moral qualities.

If selection is to work, individuals must vary, variation must be inherited, and certain kinds of inherited variation must reproduce themselves at a quicker than average rate. We shall, therefore, in the pursuit of the inquiry outlined above, begin with the consideration of the laws of variation and of heredity. The authors give, first, a general discussion of the scientific study of these topics, illustrating them by reference to simple cases of Mendelian inheritance, of normal distribution, etc.; incidentally they show that Galton's law of ancestral inheritance may be reconciled with the Mendelian principle of particulate inheritance if, instead of a single individual, we consider large numbers: "the frequency of Mendelian dominance would produce, on the average of large numbers, greater resemblances of children to their parents than to their grandparents and to more distant ancestors." They then treat, chiefly on the basis of Galton's work, of inheritance and variation in mankind. Special chapters are devoted to the inheritance of mental defect and ability, and to the rise and decline of families. At this point the authors turn to the third condition of the operation of selection, the necessity of reproduction, and discuss in three chapters the birth-rate, the selective birth-rate: its effects, and the decline in the birth-rate: its causes. "In the British Isles certainly, and probably in Western Europe generally, the best elements of the population are increasing, if they increase at all, at a much slower rate than the less worthy stocks, and, in some cases at any rate, the better classes are actually diminishing in number." The outcome must be deterioration, and eventually the passing of the race. Why, then, do the worthier classes desire to restrict their offspring? The authors find a number of contributory causes: the feeling of overwhelming responsibility towards children, expense, the advent in society of persons whose newly acquired wealth is not associated with definite territorial or local traditions, the cult of games, the restless-